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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, January 26, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended January 21 totaled an estimated 16.2 billion ton-miles, 8.3 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first three weeks of 1984 was an estimated 46.8 billion ton-miles, 5.5 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended January 21 totaled 366,864 cars, 9.5 percent above 1983, but 4.0 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 18.7 percent in the East, 11.2 percent in the South and 3.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 15 of the 21 commodity groups were up, led by loadings of motor vehicles and equipment which showed a gain of 6,655 cars or 47.7 percent. Large gains were also reflected in loadings of waste and scrap materials, metals and products, other farm products, metallic ores and nonmetallic minerals. Grain loadings were up 12.8 percent. Fourteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended January 14 totaled 47,580 cars, up 19.7 percent from the corresponding week of 1983 and 84,367 trailers and/or containers, 26.9 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first two weeks of the year was 85,386 cars, 15.5 percent higher than last year, and 150,209 trailers and/or containers, up 20.5 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 1/21/84:

	Loadings in Week ended January 21, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	30,809	I	3,506	12.8	D	2,377	7.2
Other farm products	4,488	D	1,735	27.9	D	827	15.6
Metallic ores	13,226	I	2,633	24.9	I	1,501	12.8
Coal	97,506	I	1,189	1.2	D	10,434	9.7
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	7,456	I	842	12.7	D	336	4.3
Nonmetallic minerals	12,050	I	1,861	18.3	I	686	6.0
Grain mill products	12,215	D	63	0.5	I	140	1.2
Food and kindred products	11,017	D	1,470	11.8	D	827	7.0
Primary forest products	12,847	D	613	4.6	D	891	6.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,982	D	16	0.2	D	37	0.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,602	D	415	2.8	D	148	1.0
Chemicals and allied products	24,488	I	2,309	10.4	D	711	2.8
Petroleum products	5,050	I	119	2.4	D	172	3.3
Stone, clay and glass products	8,561	I	90	1.1	D	1,232	12.6
Coke	4,542	I	257	6.0	D	221	4.6
Metals and products	9,147	I	2,401	35.6	D	17	0.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,600	I	6,655	47.7	I	769	3.9
Waste and scrap materials	9,967	I	2,851	40.1	I	135	1.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	9,687	I	2,491	34.6	I	182	1.9
All other carloads	51,341	I	8,770	20.6	D	427	0.8
LCL traffic	283	I	127	81.4	I	29	11.4
Total Cars Loaded	366,864	I	31,789	9.5	D	15,215	4.0
Corresponding week of 1983	335,075						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (3 weeks)	1,051,411	997,145	I 5.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
2 weeks ended January 14	30.6	29.4	I 4.1
Week ended January 21	16.2	14.9	I 8.3
3 weeks cumulation	46.8	44.3	I 5.5

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